

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—J

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Editorial

Please Take Notice

Since the change in the Evangelist publisher's announcements no longer appear on this page. For special premium offers look on page 16, and for instructions, announcements, etc., look on page 14. Please always examine these two pages, 14 and 16, for the purpose above indicated. This notice may not appear again for two or three months, and unless you examine pages 14 and 16 of each issue, you may miss important announcements.

Better Still

Preachers are naturally and laudably anxious to win the confidence of the people in their ability, to create the feeling that they are well grounded both in theology and in Christian experience; understanding all the perils and perplexities of the soul, fitted to lead the blind, able to reprove, rebuke, exhort; able also to stand in defense of the gospel, having in large measure the accomplishments and powers of utterance; efficient and ready and strong. This is good. But is it not better that the preacher win the confidence of the people in himself, in his Christian character, his purity of life, his loftiness of purpose, his integrity of heart, his unfeigned sympathy, his uttermost trustworthiness. To such a one they will come and unfold to him all that is in their hearts, and he will become to his people in council a pillar of strength, and in comfort like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

The Tender Mercies of Our God

The tender mercies of God are over all and for all. How gently the kind and heavenly Father deals even with his erring children. In great love and with a heart full of tender compassion he calls them back from their wanderings to enjoy the sweet fellowship and communion of the Father's house. He delights in forgetting the story of our sin, but if there be any goodness in the heart he would write it in letters that all the angels in heaven may read. He tells about the little deed of kindness, the smile of love, while he hides our sin and shame. A cup of cold water given in the name of a disciple, a little flower brought to the sick room in his name, the least thing that we may give him or do for him, these will not be without their reward. The Koran has a story that beautifully illustrates the tender mercy of God in his dealing with man. Every man has, it says, two angels, who walk by his side all

the day. One is the angel of good deeds, who records every good thing the man does, and puts it down ten times lest something may be omitted. The other is the angel of evil deeds, who keeps a record of every wrong thing that man does. At nightfall these two angels fly home to God to make their report. The angel of good deeds quickly tells of all that has been beautiful in the man's life and conduct during the day, and the angel of evil deeds reports all the wrong that he has done. Then the angel of good deeds begs that record of sins shall not be put down for seven hours. Perhaps the man will repent and confess and be forgiven. Tho this is but a Mohammedan legend, yet it illustrates a blessed truth about God whose tender mercies never fail.

Heavenly Visions

Paul declares he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision which came to him on the way to Damascus. Such visions may not come to us as they did to Paul of old, but we all have heavenly visions of some kind. They come to young people inviting them away from evil to the pure, the true, the good, the beautiful, divine things. The blessed teachings of a Christian mother, the sermon in which Christ is lifted up, the word of God which you read, the purity and loveliness we see in human life or in the life of Christ, the life of purity that attracts us and kindles in us desires and aspirations for higher attainments, these with many others are heavenly visions, and whenever we turn away from them we disobey the heavenly vision. God is constantly calling us up higher, to live purer lives, and we should yield to and follow every one as an angel sent from heaven to woo us nearer to God. Let us not be disobedient to the heavenly visions that come to us in this life.

Illusions of Materialism

Many and far reaching and profound are the illusions of materialism. The things which are seen are really a veil over the vision of the soul. We walk in the midst of tangible unrealities, for nothing is real which will not remain. We feel the solid ground beneath our feet, we gaze upon the "everlasting hills," we fill our lives with the busy absorptions of husbandry and traffic, we eat and drink as if on no tomorrow we die, we built houses and temples out of the supposed solid realities at our hand, expecting them to defy time, and forgetting that after they have surely crumbled to dust it will not seem as if they ever existed at all. Only he lives wise-

ly who lives for the more abundant life. Only he journeys wisely who seeks the city which hath foundations. Only he builds wisely who out of the things which are not seen builds a home in the world which is not seen. "For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

The Way Out

When thro a blunder of the captain, and the sailors and soldiers, the ship on which Paul sailed for Rome, was overtaken in a severe storm and the vessel wrecked, the apostle did not argue with these men as to how they got into the trouble, and how they might have kept out of it. He gently reminded them of the blunder, and then set to work to save the ship and the men. That is what Christianity is always doing. When a man falls into sin, as all men have done and will do, Christianity does not stand by and tell him to see how he gets out, that he had no business to get into such trouble, and having fallen into sin, he must help himself. Rather Christianity comes to his relief, it takes him by the hand and gently leads him into the way of safety. It goes down into the gutter and lifts up the fallen. It goes down by the wayside and takes up the wounded man, pours oil into his wounds and binds up his sores. This is the way of Christianity; are we following it? Instead of spending time and talent on the question as to how sin came into the world, let us give ourselves to the work of making known that gospel which promises to save from sin and offers eternal life to all who accept it. How sin came is not a matter of much importance to us, but knowing it to be here and ruining humanity, it is a matter of infinite importance that we set to work getting rid of it, and for this Christ has provided.

The Fading Leaf

The fading robes of the forest are tinged with many a dye,
And gorgeous clouds of glory hang in the ev'ning sky.

"We all do fade as a leaf." Passed into the deceased ages is another summer with its flowers and its verdure, its song of joy, its universal murmur of life, its merciful plenty, its bright benison of beauty, and the glory of its dying. How gorgeous and yet how pitiful are the forests, but a few weeks since laughing in all the joyousness of exuberant life at every caressing breeze, now flaming up toward the sun in tints as splendid as that other child of the sun, the bow in the clouds, and now disrobing in the autumn gales, wail-